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Labat, Poret Press Fight Against Jury

Death row occupants Edgar Labat and Clifton A. Poret continued to hammer away today at the grand jury which handed down their latest rape indictments.

The pair, saved from a death sentence by a federal court ruling in August, 1966, have spent the better part of 14 years in the cells of the condemned at Angola.

THEY WERE reindicted earlier this year after the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned their 1953 convictions on charges of raping a white woman.

In another round of hearings this morning before Criminal Dist. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., lawyers for the two men questioned members of the venire from which the grand jury was selected.

Defense lawyers Gerard Schreiber and G. Wray Gill, representating Poret and A. C. Dantonio and Salvador Anzelmo representing Labat questioned five members of the venire this morning. The testimony resumed after lunch today.

The 44-year-old Labat and 38-year-old Poret contend

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and 51 wounded.

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the jury which indicted them was illegally constituted. Through attorneys, they contend Negroes were systematically excluded and the jury was a blue ribbon panel instead of a representative body drawn at random.

THE ORLEANS Parish grand jury which delivered the second indictment against the two men was the same one which indicted New Orleans Businessman Clay L. Shaw in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot conspiracy case.

Shaw's attorneys have unsuccessfully challenged the makeup of the jury in a series of hearings before Judge Haggerty.